

AFGHANISTAN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2016

DECEMBER 18, 2015

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

3.8 million

Number of People in Afghanistan Targeted by the UN to Receive Humanitarian Assistance in 2015

OCHA – August 2015

1.1 million

Afghans Internally Displaced by Conflict

iMMAP – October 2015

137,000

Vulnerable Afghan Refugee Returnees in 2015

OCHA – September 2015

236,300

Pakistani Refugees in Afghanistan since June 2014

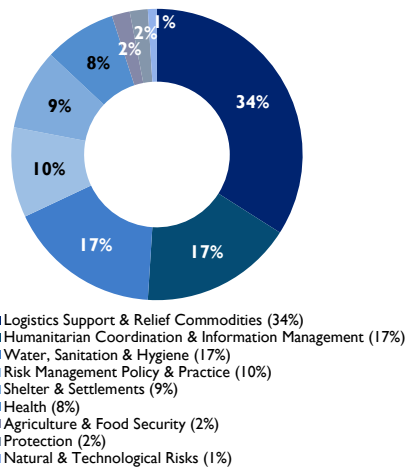
ECHO – December 2015

2.6 million

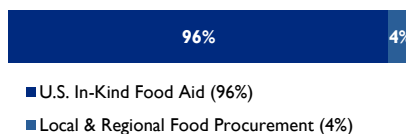
Afghan Refugees Displaced to Neighboring Countries

UNHCR – November 2015

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2015 & 2016



USAID/FFP² FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2015 & 2016



HIGHLIGHTS

- Earthquake affects 134,000 people; USAID partners lead response
- Humanitarian need increases significantly due to conflict and natural disaster
- IDPs exceed 1 million

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR AFGHANISTAN IN FY 2015-2016

USAID/OFDA	\$25,705,986
USAID/FFP	\$83,607,700
USAID/Afghanistan	\$15,500,000
State/PRM ³	\$88,121,760

\$212,935,446

TOTAL USG ASSISTANCE FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- A magnitude 7.5 earthquake struck Afghanistan on October 26, resulting in 117 deaths, more than 500 injuries, and more than 20,000 damaged or destroyed homes. According to the UN, the earthquake affected nearly 134,000 people in 15 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces. As of November 23, approximately 131,000 people had received some form of humanitarian assistance in a response led by USAID/OFDA partners. However, nearly 200 affected villages remain inaccessible due to physical and security-related access constraints.
- Following an early October Afghan/U.S. military operation to regain control of Kunduz city, Kunduz Province, the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) and the UN Resident Coordinator led a joint needs assessment and security stabilization process during the week of October 23. Reports from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) estimate that approximately 96 percent of the 13,000 previously displaced families from Kunduz have returned.

¹ USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

² USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

³ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

INSECURITY AND DISPLACEMENT

- The Taliban captured several districts in Badakhshan, Baghlan, Farah, Faryab, and Takhar provinces in early October, according to the European Commission's Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), displacing nearly 20,000 people to the capital city of Kabul during the week of October 12.
- From January to September, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) registered more than 235,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Afghanistan. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports a 64 percent increase in the number of IDPs since 2014. Further, ECHO estimates that more than 165,000 new IDPs remain unregistered following the recent violence and displacement from Kunduz, in part due to access constraints in insecure areas.
- More than 10,000 Pakistani refugees entered Khost and Paktika provinces from September to December due to ongoing military operations in Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) region. The UN reports that since June 2014 more than 236,000 Pakistani refugees were sheltering in Afghanistan and projects that an additional 175,000 refugees from Pakistan will enter Afghanistan during 2016. The influx of Pakistani refugees strains limited humanitarian resources in Afghanistan, according to the UN. Approximately 80 percent of the refugees live in inadequate and often temporary shelters, an issue of concern as winter approaches.
- The October 26 earthquake, which caused significant damage in conflict-affected areas, including Badakhshan, Baghlan, Kunduz, and Takhar provinces—triggered landslides that blocked the road from Taloqan city, Takar Province, to Kunduz, restricting humanitarian access and potentially delaying families from returning to areas of origin.

FOOD SECURITY AND EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

- While the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) predicted an average annual agricultural harvest for Afghanistan in 2015, conflict, deteriorating purchasing power, and limited access to markets continue to pose challenges for vulnerable households.
- Between September and November, an estimated 2.5 million people in Afghanistan experienced Crisis and Emergency—IPC⁴ 3 and 4, respectively—levels of food insecurity, while 7.8 million people experienced Stressed—IPC 2—levels of food insecurity, according to the Afghanistan IPC Technical Working Group. The majority of food-insecure people reside in Badakhshan, Ghor, Nuristan, and Samangan provinces. FEWS NET predicts that newly displaced persons are likely to have Crisis—IPC 3—levels of food insecurity during the lean season, which begins in February, and will therefore rely heavily on emergency food assistance. This demonstrates a marked increase in food insecurity across the country compared to the same time last year, when FEWS NET reported that most areas of Afghanistan experienced Minimal—IPC 1—levels of food insecurity in late 2014 and that displaced households experienced Stressed—IPC 2—levels of food insecurity.
- USAID/FFP provided 2,922 metric tons (MT) of fortified wheat flour and 15,870 MT of Title II commodities—including lentils, vegetable oil, and wheat—valued at nearly \$27 million to the UN World Food Program (WFP), which plans to distribute the locally purchased fortified wheat flour to earthquake-affected communities and IDPs from Kunduz. The Title II commodities are expected to arrive at the onset of the lean season, in February, to support a range of relief and recovery programs, including food distributions for emergency-affected people, nutrition support for malnourished children, and food assistance for students attending primary and vocational schools. In addition, WFP pre-positioned approximately 3,540 MT of food, sufficient to benefit 219,000 people in 46 districts, to ensure a continued food supply for vulnerable communities in remote areas that are rendered inaccessible during the winter.
- During October, USAID/FFP partner WFP distributed food to more than 880,000 people in cooperation with the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), as well as provided two-month food rations to families in makeshift IDP camps in Mazar-e-Sharif city, Bakh Province, and Taloqan, assisting nearly 46,000 people.

⁴ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standardized tool that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5.

NATURAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

- The UN reports that natural disasters—including drought, floods, heavy snowfall, and landslides—affected nearly 110,000 people in Afghanistan during the first half of 2015. Another 130,000 people were affected by the October 26 earthquake. The earthquake resulted in 117 deaths, more than 500 injuries, and at least 20,000 damaged or destroyed homes; it also triggered landslides that have severely hindered access to remote rural areas and affected telecommunications and electricity networks.
- In response to the October 26 earthquake, USAID/OFDA provided emergency relief commodities—including blankets, hygiene materials, kitchen utensils, solar lanterns, tarpaulin sheets, tents, and winter clothing—to more than 50,000 people as of November 15 through humanitarian partners including FOCUS Humanitarian Organization, International Medical Corps (IMC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US), and the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF). USAID/OFDA also supported Information Management and Mine Action Programs (iMMAP) to provide 25 thematic maps showing the status of assessments and response efforts in all 15 earthquake-affected provinces.
- Since 2011, USAID/OFDA has provided IMC more than \$7.7 million to implement the Emergency Preparedness and Response in Afghanistan (EPRA) program, which has trained more than 19,000 community volunteers to conduct search-and-rescue operations, perform assessments, pre-position relief supplies, and provide first aid. When the Badakhshan earthquake struck, IMC-trained emergency response teams in Asmar, Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, and Nuristan provinces utilized ERPA-provided tools to rescue people from a collapsed house, clear a blocked water source, and report casualty and damage information to local authorities.
- As of November 23, the UN was coordinating with the GoA on the provision of food and non-food items for more than 300 households in remote districts not currently accessible by other humanitarian partners.
- In preparation for the onset of winter weather, USAID/OFDA partners are pre-positioning food, fuel, and supplies to address the needs of IDPs and refugee returnees living in poorly heated settlements outside of Kabul.

OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- The UN allocated nearly \$3 million from the Afghanistan Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF)—a pooled funding mechanism for humanitarian activities under the oversight of the UN—to support housing and winterization efforts in response to increases in humanitarian needs due to the October 26 earthquake and displacement from Kunduz.
- On October 21, the GoA announced the conversion of ANDMA to a ministry, thus formally establishing a Ministry of Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance. The former Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development Wais Ahmed Barmak joined Afghanistan’s Cabinet of Ministers on November 14 as the new Minister of Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance.

CONTEXT

- Ongoing conflict and frequent natural disasters continue to displace populations and generate significant humanitarian needs throughout Afghanistan. As of October 2015, more than 1.1 million people remain internally displaced by conflict, while natural disasters, such as floods and avalanches, affect approximately 250,000 Afghans each year, according to the UN. Additionally, Afghanistan experienced an influx of Pakistani refugees in Khost and Paktika following July 2014 military operations in Pakistan’s North Waziristan Agency.
- On October 15, 2015, Ambassador P. Michael McKinley renewed the disaster declaration for the complex emergency in Afghanistan for FY 2016.
- USAID/OFDA supports a three-pronged approach to improving humanitarian response efforts in Afghanistan: supporting rapid response capacity for acute needs following natural disasters and conflict; improving humanitarian indicators; and enhancing humanitarian coordination, data collection, and analysis.
- USAID/FFP food assistance and disaster readiness programs are designed to respond to the food security and nutritional needs of IDPs and returnees, as well as people affected by economic stress; support the recovery of communities affected by shocks; treat moderately malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women; and contribute to learning among primary and lower secondary school pupils and adults, particularly women.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR AFGHANISTAN PROVIDED IN FY 2015–2016¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
Aga Khan Foundation/US (AKF/US)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Natural and Technological Risks, Risk Management Policy and Practice	Badakhshan, Baghlan, Bamyan, Kabul, Samangan	\$1,207,786
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Badakhshan, Baghlan	\$999,877
IMC	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements	Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, Nuristan	\$1,998,414
iMMAP	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$2,112,032
IOM	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Risk Management Policy and Practice	Countrywide	\$6,093,000
IRC	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements WASH	Badghis, Helmand, Herat, Khost, Laghman, Loghar, Nangarhar, Paktika	\$2,661,384
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
SC/US	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements	Balkh, Bamyan, Faryab, Jowzjan, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz, Sar-e Pul	\$2,497,928
UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$550,000
UN World Health Organization (WHO)	Health	Countrywide	\$2,300,000
WFP	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
ZOA	Shelter and Settlements	Jowzjan	\$999,920
	Program Support Costs		\$285,645
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			\$25,705,986
USAID/FFP³			
UNICEF	280 MT of RUTF	Countrywide	\$1,200,000
WFP	40,300 MT of In-Kind Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$52,407,700
WFP	15,870 MT of Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Earthquake- and conflict-affected areas	\$27,000,000
	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Earthquake- and conflict-affected areas	\$3,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			\$83,607,700
USAID/AFGHANISTAN			
ACTED	WASH	Badakhshan, Baghlan, Balkh, Faryab, Jowzjan	\$1,998,531
FEWS NET	Humanitarian Coordination and Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
UNICEF	Nutrition, WASH	Countrywide	\$11,001,473
ZOA	WASH	Sar-e Pul, Uruzgan	\$1,499,996
TOTAL USAID/AFGHANISTAN ASSISTANCE			\$15,500,000

STATE/PRM			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Humanitarian Assistance, Protection	Countrywide	\$22,700,000
NGO/Other IO Partners	Humanitarian Assistance, Protection	Afghanistan, Pakistan	\$17,421,760
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance, Protection	Countrywide	\$48,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			\$88,121,760
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR AFGHANISTAN IN FY 2015–2016			\$212,935,446

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

² USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of December 14, 2015.

³ Estimated value of food assistance.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at www.interaction.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or +1.202.821.1999.
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>